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Roxbury, Jan. 26, 1869.

My dear Whittier:

I am greatly mortified to think so many days have elapsed since the receipt of your letter, without carrying to you a reply. This delay has been quite unintentional. I had no sooner read your letter than our friend Richard D. Webb, who has been with me several weeks, but is now at Mr. May's in Leicester, asked if he might keep it as an autograph, (you see what it is to be famous!) to which I responded in the affirmative. But, for some days, "out of sight, out of mind." Since then, I have been truly perplexed what answer to send you; mainly, or rather wholly, because of my mental and physical condition owing to a serious kidney complaint. During the whole lecturing season, thus far, I have invariably declined to enter the field in a single instance, though covered with applica-

tions stretching to the West, not feeling adequate to encounter so much fatigue and exposure. You invite me to lecture in Amesbury in behalf of the Freedmen's cause, and to sustain one or more teachers at the South. The love I bear you, and especially that noble cause, prompts me to say I will come; and yet, under medical treatment as I am, and have been for some time past, I hesitate to commit myself positively for the present. I am anxious to do something for your niece, so that she may be able to "teach the young idea how to shoot" at the South, and therefore write to know whether a lecture is still needed, in order to raise the needed funds; and, if so, whether it would be agreeable to have that lecture delivered by me some time in February, say about the full of the moon, so as to have the ~~[illegible]~~ evening as light as practicable. If yes, then I will endeavor to come on the evening that may be designated, making a free-will offering of the lecture.

It may be that, since you wrote, arrangements have been made to secure the object named in your letter; and so you can "take the will for the deed" in regard to myself.

I was very glad to see your recommendation of Charles Sumner for Secretary of State under Grant, though it would be impossible to fill his place in the Senate. He would also make an excellent Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James.

I have no distrust of Grant whatever, and marvel that Mr. Phillips is so disposed to hold him up to suspicion and censure; complaining bitterly of his reticence — as if that were a crime, and not perfectly characteristic of the man! He is not a talker, but a doer.

Yours, with great love,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Wm Loyd Garrison

McAuliffe v. Mayor, p. 85A